

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 03533 021649Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 3533

NODIS

FOR EUR: WARREN ZIMMERMANN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), AU

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO VIENNA: KREISKY VIEWS ON SOUTH AFRICA

REF: STATE 098382

1. CHANCELLOR KREISKY, ALTHOUGH PUBLICLY OPPOSED TO PAPARTHEID, HAS MADE FEW PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA OR THE GENERAL POLITICAL SIUTUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AUSTRIA HAS VOTED WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN MOST SOUTH AFRICAN ISSUES IN THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES BUT ALWAYS AGAINST THE EXCLUSION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

2. WILLI BRANDT RECENTLY INDICATED THAT KREISKY MIGHT ACCOMPANY A SPECIAL SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL FACT-FINDING GROUP TO SOUTHERN AFRICA THAT IS TO BE LED BY FORMER SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER, OLOF PALME. AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPER ARTICLES INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT KREISKY WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PARTICIPATING, BOTH BECAUSE HE IS NOT PARTICULARLY WELL INFORMED ABOUT AFRICA AFFAIRS AND BECAUSE HE DOES NOT WANT TO BE DIVERTED FROM HIS MISSION AND THE SPECIAL POSITION HE HAS CREATED FOR HIMSELF ON MIDDLE EAST AS HEAD
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 03533 021649Z

OF THE SI FACT-FINDING GROUP TO THAT AREA.

3. IN MARCH 1975 THE FOREIGN MINISTRY INTERVENED ON ADMITTEDLY POLITICAL GROUNDS TO ASSURE AUSTRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM A \$400 MILLION STEEL MILL PROJECT IN SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE OF OBJECTIONS BY UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM (THEN CONTEMPLATING RE-ELECTION AS UN/SYG), AND BECAUSE

OF THREATS OF A POSSIBLE BOYCOTT AGAINST AUSTRIA BY
AFRICAN STATES. BIELKA, THEN FOREIGN MINISTER, SAID
PROJECT WOULD NOT ONLY HAVE ANTAGONIZED THIRD WORLD
BUT WOULD HAVE RUN COUNTER TO MORAL OBLIGATIONS
RESULTING FROM UN DECISIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA. KREISKY
LATER SAID DECISION WAS MADE ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS BUT
HIS OWN ATTITUDE CLEARLY REFLECTED POLITICAL AS WELL AS
ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS.MEEHAN

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